by the Department of Food and Public Distribution in June, 1999 for greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the functioning of TPDS to bring about a more transparent and accountable system of distribution; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard and the results achieved therefrom up to 30th November, 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Orissa has issued instructions in December, 1999 for involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in functioning of Public Distribution System in a transparent and accountable manner. The instructions *inter alia* provide for identification of BPL families by Gram Panchayat, display of the list of BPL beneficiaries in the office of the Gram Panchayat for scrutiny by the public, checking of ration cards occasionally redressal of grievances of the beneficiaries and oversee the functioning of the Fair Price Shops.

Prices of onion and potato

1634. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of onion and potato are high as compared to the international market and there is scarcity of these commodities in the country;

(b) if so, the prices of onion and potato in international market;

(c) the quantity of onion and potato exported during the last three years, country-wise, along with the foreign exchange earned; and

(d) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by Government to keep prices of onion and potato under control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir. As per information provided by NAFED, the domestic prices of onion and potato are not ruling high as compared to the prices in the international markets and there is no scarcity of these commodities in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Statements showing the quantity and value of onion and potato exported during the last three years, country-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement (*see* below).

(d) Prices of potato and onion are monitored daily on the basis of information received from the State Governments. The High Powered Price Monitoring Board also monitors and reviews the prices of essential commodities including that of potato and onion regularly and recommends appropriate remedial measures in case of any abnormal increase in prices or shortages. The Inter-Ministerial Review Committee also monitors the availability and prices of onion on regular basis.

Statement

Country-wise Exports of Onion during the years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004

(Qty in Metric Tonnes/Value in Rs Lakhs)

Country	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
Dubai	81711.00	6539.55	108039.00	7540.98	104361.00	10078.35
Bahrain	14336.00	1179.59	21658.000	1542.52	23145.00	2512.85
Doha/Qatar	1297.00	100.21	3210.00	244.51	1722.00	174.60
Sharjah	1397.00	111.44	9099.00	666.91	13110.00	1188.63
Kuwait	1332.00	109.07	1450.00	105.35	3407.00	408.72
Abu Dubai	8725.00	706.48	4063.00	310.18	7264.00	720.06
Pakistan	1391.00	98.72	15583.00	1003.79	0.00	0.00
Re Union	3151.00	441.93	5530.00	623.29	6093.00	779.31
Damman	7236.00	608.84	15943.00	1131.96	14592.00	1510.59
Singapore	16432.00	1510.19	20484.00	1612.20	37356.00	3590.33
Malaysia	83551.00	7683.60	111402.00	8239.32	161695.00	18383.41
Maldives	3347.00	369.30	3901.00	442.31	3937.00	533.68
Sri Lanka	84236.00	6781.73	102668.00	7160.66	113788.00	10729.07
Bangladesh	187104.00	13571.76	94132.00	5602.82	303325.00	26944.31

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nepal	1488.00	99.51	6750.00	334.73	26882.00	1985.60
Seychelles	645.00	89.41	688.00	88.35	375.00	57.37
Mauritius	7842.00	927.48	9587.00	1138.39	11230.00	1553.42
Muscat	182.00	15.21	1773.00	131.66	2451.00	236.80
Manila	541.00	79.09	0.00	0.00	52.00	6.21
Greece	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1170.00	166.26
Others	980.00	117.42	9251.00	798.77	4706.00	610.94
TOTAL:	506924.00	41140.53	545211.00	38718.70	840661.00	82170.51

(Source:NAFED)

Country-Wise Exports of Potato during the Years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004

(Qty in Metric Tonnes/Value in Rs Lakhs)

Country	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
Bangladesh	84.00	4.43	0.00	0.00	160.30	4.85
Italy	14.40	1.54	0.00	0.00	388.44	18.10
Malaysia	265.80	14.10	41.00	2.15	97.00	5.56
Nepal	6342.76	188.47	14687.64	501.28	55234.66	1989.15
Oman	1.20	0.13	0.00	0.00	131.60	8.37
Saudi Arabia	5.31	0.25	1.70	0.21	9.00	0.31
Doha/Qatar	0.00	0.00	70.00	4.86	43.00	2.15
Maldives	0.00	0.00	333.33	25.18	803.04	50.05
Mauritius	20.00	0.82	1129.25	98.90	3021.10	269.66
Singapore	87.00	4.33	121.13	16.18	114.52	9.10
Sri Lanka	386.90	24.30	7800.77	511.78	3816.20	245.99
Switzerland	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.11	0.00	0.00
Angola	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Australia	3.01	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dubai	941.90	88.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
USA	30	0.95	0.00	0.00	800.00	35.35
Canada	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.48	0.00	0.00
UAE	0.00	0.00	144.90	10.49	312.09	18.71
UK	0.00	0.00	24.41	10.75	8.00	0.36
Yemen Rep.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	20.32
Bahrain	0.00	0 00	0.00	0.00	41.41	2.00
Seychelles	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	216.00	18.20
Norway	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.23
Japan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.00	0.11
Denmark	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	8.66
Germany	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	630.00	20.20
Kuwait	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.52	0.17
Unspecified	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1200.00	51.05
TOTAL:	8182.28	328.30	24365.13	1182.37	67739.87	2778.65

(Source: NAFED)

Corruption in Labour Unions of FCI

†1635. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a lot of corruption in different States in becoming a member of the Labour Unions of Food Corporation of India particularly in the State of Punjab, where any labourer can become a member of Union by paying one lakh rupees and also that office bearers of these Labour Unions belong to mafia and are of criminal nature who have been occupying these posts for years together;

(b) if so, whether the top official of the Food Corporation of India are aware of such large scale corruption prevalent in Labour Unions; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government to remove corruption and crime as above?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.